

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, )  
 )  
Plaintiff, )  
 )  
vs. ) Case No.  
 ) 2:09-CR-078-JCM-RJJ  
SHAWN TALBOT RICE, et al., )  
 )  
Defendants. )  
\_\_\_\_\_)

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
HEARING RE: CONTINUED INITIAL APPEARANCE  
AS TO SHAWN RICE  
VOLUME 1  
BEFORE THE HONORABLE ROBERT J. JOHNSTON  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Tuesday, July 28, 2009

FTR: 11:15:54 a.m. through 12:33:42 p.m.  
Pretrial Services: Terry Wheaton  
Proceedings recorded by electronic sound recording;  
transcript produced by transcription service.

1 APPEARANCES:

2 For the Plaintiff: L. ERIC JOHNSON, AUSA  
3 United States Attorney's Office  
4 333 Las Vegas Boulevard South  
Suite 5000  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

5 For the Defendant: MICHAEL P. KIMBRELL, ESQ.  
6 Michael P. Kimbrell, Ltd.  
7 523 South Eighth Street  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

1 (Court convened at 11:15:54 a.m.)

2 THE COURT: Please be seated.

3 (Colloquy not on the record.)

4 THE CLERK: United States of America versus  
5 Shawn Rice, 2:09-Criminal-78-JCM-RJJ. This is the time set for  
6 the continuance of initial appearance.

7 THE COURT: Counsel, please enter your appearances  
8 for the record.

9 MR. JOHNSON: Eric Johnson for the United States.

10 THE COURT: Thank you.

11 MR. KIMBRELL: Michael Kimbrell here with  
12 Mr. Shawn Rice who's present in custody.

13 THE COURT: Thank you.

14 This is a continuation of yesterday's hearing, initial  
15 appearance back in this district by the defendant,  
16 Shawn Talbot Rice, for failure to appear at a previous court  
17 proceeding. Mr. Rice at the hearing yesterday affirmed his  
18 request to represent himself in the case.

19 Mr. Rice, is that still your intent today?

20 THE DEFENDANT: It's been my intent from the very  
21 beginning, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Okay.

23 THE DEFENDANT: I stated it very clear at the  
24 arraignment. I think I stated it clearly yesterday. I stated  
25 it in the pleadings, and there are multiple legal documents on

1 file with this court that I put in the record numerous times.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Well, let me proceed. I did go  
3 back and listen to the previous hearing and the initial  
4 appearance.

5 That was conducted in front of another judge. It was not  
6 done by myself, and it is clear in that record that you did  
7 indicate you wanted to represent yourself.

8 And the judge at that proceeding had indicated that at a  
9 later time that would be handled. That there wasn't time or it  
10 wasn't appropriate to do it there. And for some reason, that  
11 hearing was not set and did not occur, so we're really kind of  
12 cleaning things up and getting you into a position where you  
13 can represent yourself.

14 Now, under the Constitution as I know you've indicated you  
15 understand, you have a constitutional right to be represented  
16 by an attorney.

17 And even if you are unable to afford to hire an attorney,  
18 the Court would appoint one to represent you at no cost to  
19 you.

20 Now, I just need to ask some questions of you and to  
21 basically create a record that's required by the United States  
22 Supreme Court to show that you are competent, that you do  
23 understand your right to an attorney, and that this is a  
24 voluntary waiver on your behalf.

25 Now, if I could begin, what is your full legal name,

1 please?

2 THE DEFENDANT: Shawn Talbot Rice.

3 THE COURT: Thank you. And, Mr. Rice, how much  
4 education do you have?

5 THE DEFENDANT: Juris doctor.

6 THE COURT: Do you hold an undergraduate degree?

7 THE DEFENDANT: I'm sorry. I have a high school  
8 diploma. I have an associate's degree in liberal arts, a  
9 bachelor's degree in anthropology, a paralegal certificate. I  
10 hold an LLB from Great Britain. I hold a juris doctor from  
11 California, and I'm halfway through a Letters of Law master's  
12 degree.

13 THE COURT: And at which university did you obtain  
14 the bachelor of anthropology?

15 THE DEFENDANT: Cal State University, Fullerton.

16 THE COURT: Thank you.

17 THE DEFENDANT: The J.D. was from Novus University in  
18 California.

19 THE COURT: And just for the record, my understanding  
20 is that's an on-line university; is that correct?

21 THE DEFENDANT: That's correct.

22 THE COURT: And so you did your work on-line?

23 THE DEFENDANT: I chose not to attend a bar  
24 university because I was not going to get the education I  
25 wanted.

1 THE COURT: Okay.

2 THE DEFENDANT: The education I wanted specifically  
3 at the end was to understand public policy in the United States  
4 pursuant to and in the nature of admiralty maritime  
5 jurisdiction which they didn't teach in Arizona.

6 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

7 THE DEFENDANT: I did seek it out both at Arizona  
8 State University and the University of Arizona, and numerous  
9 other universities, including JAG in Washington D.C., and  
10 nobody taught what I was looking for, so I did it myself.

11 THE COURT: Okay. You also indicated you had an LLB?

12 THE DEFENDANT: Um-h'm.

13 THE COURT: At which university?

14 THE DEFENDANT: Shepperton University, Great Britain,  
15 U.K.

16 THE COURT: Shepherd (sic)?

17 THE DEFENDANT: Shepperton.

18 THE COURT: How do you --

19 THE DEFENDANT: I initially --

20 THE COURT: -- spell it?

21 THE DEFENDANT: -- attended --

22 THE COURT: How do you spell Shepperton?

23 THE DEFENDANT: Shepperton, S-h-e-p-p-e-r-t-o-n.

24 THE COURT: Thank you.

25 THE DEFENDANT: And I initially attended introduction

1 to that course in Great Britain. I believe it was 1998.

2 THE COURT: Thank you. And did you complete a full  
3 course, then, and receive a degree?

4 THE DEFENDANT: 2002 through 2006, yes.

5 THE COURT: Thank you. And you indicated that you're  
6 currently working on a LLM?

7 THE DEFENDANT: Correct.

8 THE COURT: At which university?

9 THE DEFENDANT: Novus University.

10 THE COURT: And is there a particular speciality or  
11 category for the LLM?

12 THE DEFENDANT: Well, besides the court courses of  
13 antitrust, admin law, taxation of business entities, and the  
14 other three courses, I was toying with the idea of doing my  
15 master's degree -- or a master's thesis on international law.

16 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Would that be  
17 considered, then, the focus of the LLM is international law?

18 THE DEFENDANT: Unless something changes on a  
19 military side, yes. That's correct.

20 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. I only ask because I  
21 know there are a lot of LLM programs now in tax and financial  
22 planning and trial procedure and practice and a number of other  
23 things.

24 THE DEFENDANT: Well, they cover the core, I mean,  
25 you know, admin law, and they cover the taxation of business

1 entities, antitrust, securities. Those issues are covered, but  
2 the -- my goal, of course, in that course is -- is probably  
3 going to be international law.

4 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. Now, in the course of  
5 obtaining these advanced degrees, have you had courses in  
6 criminal law and criminal procedure?

7 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. Crim Pro 101 and, of course,  
8 criminal law, that was covered in the first year, of course, of  
9 the J.D. course and, of course, in the -- in the British  
10 bachelor's degree course. And, of course, it covered basic  
11 criminal law and the paralegal course with Kaplan University.

12 THE COURT: Thank you. Are you licensed to practice  
13 in any jurisdiction?

14 THE DEFENDANT: Pembina Nation only.

15 THE COURT: Now, I'm sorry. How do you spell that?

16 THE DEFENDANT: Pembina, P-e-m-b-i-n-a, and I am  
17 bonded.

18 THE COURT: Now, when you say the Pem -- what is it,  
19 Pemba (sic)?

20 THE DEFENDANT: Pembina. P-i --

21 THE COURT: Pembina.

22 THE DEFENDANT: P-e-m-b-i-n-a --

23 THE COURT: And that is a --

24 THE DEFENDANT: -- under Chief Lawrence Henry.

25 THE COURT: I'm sorry.



1 THE DEFENDANT: Chief Lawrence Henry is the chief of  
2 that tribe.

3 THE COURT: Now, that --

4 THE DEFENDANT: I can get you his phone number if you  
5 want it, and he's in North Dakota. He goes back and forth  
6 between Arosa River, Canada and North Dakota.

7 THE COURT: Now, that particular tribe is not  
8 recognized --

9 THE DEFENDANT: Only by --

10 THE COURT: -- and not a --

11 THE DEFENDANT: -- the U.S. Senate --

12 THE COURT: Right.

13 THE DEFENDANT: -- by a treaty. It's not part of the  
14 Bureau of Indian Affairs.

15 THE COURT: So it's not a recognized Native American  
16 tribe.

17 THE DEFENDANT: Again, it's not recognized by you  
18 folks through the Bureau of Indian Affairs or U.S. Congress.  
19 It is recognized by the U.S. Senate by a treaty.

20 THE COURT: Really?

21 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

22 THE COURT: Where would I --

23 THE DEFENDANT: And, in fact, the FBI has a copy of  
24 that treaty. It was in my attache case when they arrested me.

25 THE COURT: Where would I find that treaty?

1 THE DEFENDANT: I can get you a copy. I can E-mail  
2 it to you.

3 THE COURT: Okay. Have you ever appeared in that  
4 court?

5 THE DEFENDANT: Only for the initial appointment.

6 THE COURT: Where does the court sit?

7 THE DEFENDANT: The court sits in North Dakota. I  
8 appeared in Arizona at the time and met with Chief Justice  
9 Leon Miles.

10 He is at the time -- I don't know if he still is or not.  
11 But at the time, he was chief justice of the Confederated Tribe  
12 of North America.

13 THE COURT: Thank you. Are you licensed to appear in  
14 any other jurisdiction?

15 THE DEFENDANT: No.

16 THE COURT: Okay. Have you ever sought licensing in  
17 any jurisdiction?

18 THE DEFENDANT: I at -- up to this point, no, I have  
19 purposely not done that. I take that back. Yes, I have. I  
20 did it here in Nevada. I did it in 2006.

21 I took the Pembina Authorization to Practice, and I did  
22 file with the Nevada State Bar for authorization to appear and  
23 represent a single corporation.

24 The corporation was -- I can't -- I can't remember the  
25 name of the corporation at this point, so I'm -- Earth Energy

1 Industries.

2 Earth Energy Industries was domiciled here in Nevada. The  
3 president of that corporation is Howard Foote, and he works  
4 with NASA and the U.S. Department of Energy as well as the  
5 Department of Defense and other defense projects.

6 THE COURT: Did that representation involve an  
7 appearance in court?

8 THE DEFENDANT: No. It was strictly administrative  
9 contractual law.

10 THE COURT: When you say administrative, did you  
11 appear in front of any state or federal agency on behalf of  
12 that corporation?

13 THE DEFENDANT: I was good enough to not have to do  
14 that. I did interface with various different government  
15 agents, the Department of Homeland Security on various  
16 occasions by telephone, E-mail, sometimes personal appearances,  
17 but never before to any administrative judges or  
18 administrative-law judges. I was able to avoid any  
19 entanglements for that corporation.

20 THE COURT: Thank you. Have you ever represented  
21 yourself in a criminal case before?

22 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. In fact, I did so in 2007/2008  
23 in Seligman, Arizona. I had two congregants sue, lied, and  
24 that came out in the record in that case.

25 THE COURT: Was that a state or a federal case?

1 THE DEFENDANT: A state case.

2 THE COURT: Was that a state -- was that  
3 superior court, a district court? What do they --

4 THE DEFENDANT: It was a Justice --

5 THE COURT: -- call it --

6 THE DEFENDANT: -- of the Peace.

7 THE COURT: -- in Arizona?

8 THE DEFENDANT: So it would be, technically,  
9 superior court.

10 THE COURT: Superior court? In this particular case,  
11 you're charged by an indictment. Do you have a copy of that  
12 indictment?

13 THE DEFENDANT: I do not.

14 THE COURT: Mr. Kimbrell, do you have a copy of that?

15 MR. KIMBRELL: I can check, your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Okay.

17 (Colloquy not on the record.)

18 MR. KIMBRELL: May I approach, your Honor? Do you  
19 want verify it?

20 THE COURT: No. That's okay as long as you've got it  
21 and could share that, please, with Mr. Rice.

22 Mr. Rice, in the indictment which is Document No. 1 in  
23 this case file, you're charged in Count I with a conspiracy to  
24 commit money laundering.

25 And that charge is alleged to be in violation of

1 Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956, Subsection H. Have  
2 you had a chance to see this indictment, previously?

3 THE DEFENDANT: I have.

4 THE COURT: And you've been over these charges?

5 THE DEFENDANT: I've been able to what?

6 THE COURT: Have you been able to go over --

7 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. Of course.

8 THE COURT: -- these charges?

9 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

10 THE COURT: Have you ever discussed them with an  
11 attorney?

12 THE DEFENDANT: No.

13 THE COURT: Okay. And that's been your choice?

14 THE DEFENDANT: Correct.

15 THE COURT: Okay. Do you have any problem  
16 understanding this first charge against you, this conspiracy to  
17 commit money laundering?

18 THE DEFENDANT: I comprehend the entire indictment.

19 THE COURT: Okay. What is the maximum penalty in  
20 regard to Count I, the conspiracy to commit money laundering?

21 MR. JOHNSON: It would be 20 years, a maximum  
22 sentence of 20 years, and then a fine I believe would be up to  
23 \$250,000.

24 THE COURT: Is there some question, Mr. Johnson, as  
25 to the fine? You said you believe it would be.

1 MR. JOHNSON: I have the statute for 1956 in front of  
2 me, and it makes reference to it shall be fined under the  
3 title, and it doesn't include a separate amount, so I assume  
4 it's the standard \$250 provision --

5 THE COURT: Okay.

6 MR. JOHNSON: -- under --

7 THE COURT: That would be correct --

8 MR. JOHNSON: -- the Title 18.

9 THE COURT: -- then. Any other penalties or  
10 assessments that could be applied for a conviction on that  
11 particular count?

12 MR. JOHNSON: There is a potential for forfeiture for  
13 of any property involved in the -- there is a potential for a  
14 money judgment that could result from that.

15 There was approximately 1.1, 1.2 million dollars that was  
16 money laundered through the counts. Defendant and his  
17 codefendant received about \$100,000 as payment.

18 THE COURT: And is there any possible restitution in  
19 this particular circumstance?

20 MR. JOHNSON: There would be restitution of the  
21 moneys that were accepted by the defendant and his codefendant  
22 for payment of their actions. That would be to the FBI, and  
23 that would be again approximately \$100,000.

24 THE COURT: Okay. There's also, Mr. Rice, a penalty  
25 assessment in the amount of \$100 on each felony count, and that

1 would apply as to Count I as well.

2 THE DEFENDANT: So if I understand your Honor  
3 correctly, we have a total of, collectively, 31 counts starting  
4 at \$250,000 per penal-sum figure, plus \$100,000 for the actual  
5 fund, plus \$100 per count, and there were other sundry fees and  
6 the penal sum; is that correct?

7 THE COURT: Well, let's take them separately, so that  
8 we can make sure we segregate things. The one count that we've  
9 discussed so far is Count I, a conspiracy to commit money  
10 laundering, which carries a penalty up to 20 years in federal  
11 prison, a fine up to \$250,000, also a \$100 penalty assessment,  
12 the potential for a forfeiture, a forfeiture against you, and  
13 I'll talk about that in a minute because it is included in the  
14 indictment.

15 There's also a potential of restitution ordered against  
16 you which could be payable, then, to the federal government,  
17 and the agency I believe indicated it is the Federal Bureau of  
18 Investigation. Do you have questions about the potential  
19 penalties there?

20 THE DEFENDANT: The only questions I have are what  
21 the total penal sum's are going to be for the entire case, and  
22 then I'd like to see a copy of the 1099 when we get to that,  
23 eventually.

24 THE COURT: Okay. And then you're charged in  
25 Counts XIX through XXXI, and the charge in each of those is

1 money laundering. That's in violation of Title 18,  
2 United States Code, Section 1956, Subsection (b)(a)(3).

3 Also, in each of those counts, you're charged with aiding  
4 and abetting in violation of Title 18, United States Code,  
5 Section 2.

6 Mr. Johnson, what is the potential penalty as to each of  
7 those charged?

8 MR. JOHNSON: It's the same as with the conspiracy,  
9 up to 20 years maximum for each count and up to a \$250,000 fine  
10 for each count. The restitution that I had discussed before  
11 would be encompassed within those counts, too.

12 THE COURT: Each of the counts, then, XIX through  
13 XXXI, charging money laundering and aiding and abetting would  
14 carry a potential penalty of up to 20 years in federal prison,  
15 a \$100 mandatory penalty assessment as to each that you're  
16 convicted of, also a potential fine of \$250,000 as to each one,  
17 and forfeiture. There would also be a potential for  
18 restitution, and that would be the \$100,000 amount that's been  
19 indicated.

20 Mr. Johnson, is there potential here for consecutive  
21 sentences as to these?

22 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, your Honor. I mean, under the  
23 law, the Court has the discretion to sentence the defendant on  
24 each count to terms that can run consecutively each count.

25 THE COURT: Do you understand the difference,



1 Mr. Rice --

2 THE DEFENDANT: I do.

3 THE COURT: -- between a consecutive and --

4 THE DEFENDANT: I do.

5 THE COURT: -- and concurrent? In other words,  
6 consecutive means that each of the sentences could be one right  
7 after another --

8 THE DEFENDANT: I comprehend.

9 THE COURT: -- to create a very substantial  
10 sentence --

11 THE DEFENDANT: It would be life. I understand.

12 THE COURT: -- if there's a conviction.

13 Thank you.

14 Now, also, at page 33 of the indictment, there's been  
15 reference to a forfeiture. There are forfeiture allegations  
16 attached at the end here of the indictment.

17 The Government seeks criminal forfeiture of certain  
18 property from you and, particularly, an amount up to  
19 1.29 million dollars as well as anything else that could be  
20 connected to that money.

21 Now, the forfeiture for the conspiracy to commit money  
22 laundering is the first one, and that's pursuant to Title 18,  
23 United States Code, Section 981, Subsection (a)(1)(A),  
24 Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461, Subsection (c),  
25 Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956, and Title 21,

1 United States Code, Section 853, Subsection (p).

2 Now, forfeiture allegations are also alleged, and  
3 forfeiture is sought pursuant to two other sets of statutes.  
4 These are both in regard to the conspiracy to commit money  
5 laundering, also.

6 The first allegation No. 2 against you as well at the  
7 codefendant, Davis, is pursuant to a set of statutes there on  
8 page 35.

9 Do you have that in front of you?

10 THE DEFENDANT: I do.

11 THE COURT: Thank you. And then forfeiture  
12 allegation No. 3 would be the third basis for forfeiture.  
13 Again, the maximum amount in each one is 1.29 million dollars.

14 Have you ever been involved in a case that includes  
15 criminal forfeiture before?

16 THE DEFENDANT: No.

17 THE COURT: Are you familiar with the statutes and  
18 the rules governing forfeiture proceedings?

19 THE DEFENDANT: I am.

20 THE COURT: Now, are you familiar with the sentencing  
21 guidelines?

22 THE DEFENDANT: Vaguely.

23 THE COURT: Tell me a little about your familiarity  
24 with them.

25 THE DEFENDANT: Well, since the guidelines, you're

1 looking at if I understand correctly right now 85 percent per  
2 count. So if you're looking at 20 years, 85 percent of that,  
3 you're looking at about 17 years per count minus to -- good  
4 time for good behavior. Is that what you're talking about or  
5 are you talking about something else?

6 THE COURT: That's actually applying to how much time  
7 you could serve --

8 THE DEFENDANT: Um-h'm.

9 THE COURT: -- of a potential penalty. Sentencing  
10 guidelines have been put in place under federal laws enacted by  
11 congress and signed off by the president.

12 THE DEFENDANT: I -- I know they exist. I -- I  
13 haven't gone through all the details on that particular area,  
14 but I'm sure --

15 THE COURT: Okay.

16 THE DEFENDANT: -- if you give me a copy of the rules  
17 I can read it myself.

18 THE COURT: Under the -- I won't be giving you  
19 copies. That's part of what we'll discuss here today. You'll  
20 have to do some research on your own.

21 THE DEFENDANT: Of course.

22 THE COURT: But those guidelines are now advisory  
23 under some Supreme Court opinions, but they do lay out some  
24 standards for the Court and some guidance as the Courts have  
25 tried to standardize sentencing over the years, and congress

1 has taken a hand in that through some statutory procedures.

2 The guidelines are now advisory, but they're still very  
3 important in the event there's a conviction and when you get to  
4 the sentencing process.

5 Now, this is only one of the areas in which, you know,  
6 your lack of experience is going to be a real disadvantage or  
7 even a handicap to you, one of the reasons that I would  
8 strongly encourage you to have an attorney to represent you in  
9 this case.

10 You know, when you represent yourself, do you understand  
11 that that will be on your own? There won't be an attorney to  
12 help you. Do you --

13 THE DEFENDANT: Thank God.

14 THE COURT: Yeah. You're happy with --

15 THE DEFENDANT: I'm very happy --

16 THE COURT: -- that result.

17 THE DEFENDANT: -- with that. Thank you very much.

18 THE COURT: Okay. Now, do you understand also that  
19 the Court will not be able to give you advice or assistance  
20 throughout --

21 THE DEFENDANT: Thank you.

22 THE COURT: -- the course of the proceedings?

23 THE DEFENDANT: Thank you very much.

24 THE COURT: Okay. I take that that's an affirmative.

25 You're --

1 THE DEFENDANT: That's an affirmative. You got it --

2 THE COURT: You're happy --

3 THE DEFENDANT: -- your Honor.

4 THE COURT: -- with that result. Okay. Are you  
5 familiar with the Federal Rules of Evidence?

6 THE DEFENDANT: I am.

7 THE COURT: Okay. Have you ever been involved in  
8 proceedings that apply the Federal Rules of Evidence?

9 THE DEFENDANT: I have been, yes.

10 THE COURT: Okay. Now, all of the rules -- are you  
11 familiar with the rules of criminal procedure, the  
12 Federal Rules --

13 THE DEFENDANT: I am.

14 THE COURT: -- of Criminal Procedure?

15 THE DEFENDANT: Although I don't read them all the  
16 time, I am familiar with them, yes.

17 THE COURT: Okay. And you've had some of those in  
18 your studies?

19 THE DEFENDANT: I have a book on my shelf in my  
20 office at home, and, yes, I have read it.

21 THE COURT: Okay. Very good. And are you familiar  
22 with the Local Rules of Criminal Practice?

23 THE DEFENDANT: I -- I am not. And, in fact, I  
24 requested a copy of those back when I filed for a set of  
25 pleadings, and I never got a copy of that from the court clerk.

1 THE COURT: Okay. Typically, those are not provided  
2 to people, but they're available on-line at the court's Web  
3 site, and you can find the most current edition there, and you  
4 can access that without charge.

5 THE DEFENDANT: I did at the time.

6 THE COURT: All right.

7 THE DEFENDANT: And, again, when I -- when I stopped  
8 filing on the public side of the record, I just stopped reading  
9 those things, but, yes, I will go back and read those.

10 THE COURT: Okay. Do you understand that all of  
11 these rules will govern throughout the proceedings, and that  
12 you'll be obligated to follow those rules just like anyone  
13 who's a licensed attorney appearing here in the court?

14 THE DEFENDANT: I comprehend.

15 THE COURT: You also understand that the Government's  
16 represented by a licensed, experienced attorney who's often  
17 appeared in criminal proceedings here and will be opposite you  
18 in this case.

19 There would be as anyone would look at that some  
20 disadvantage to someone lacking that experience. Do you  
21 understand that difference of experience?

22 THE DEFENDANT: I look forward to a legal  
23 battlefield, your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Okay. So just as long as -- I guess the  
25 answer is yes, then --

1 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

2 THE COURT: -- you do understand --

3 THE DEFENDANT: That was a yes.

4 THE COURT: -- the difference?

5 THE DEFENDANT: That was a yes to that answer.

6 THE COURT: And you're willing to shoulder that  
7 responsibility.

8 THE DEFENDANT: I am.

9 THE COURT: Okay. Now, do you have access to a law  
10 library?

11 THE DEFENDANT: If I'm at home, yes, I -- I have my  
12 own copy of American Juris Prudence, United States Code. I can  
13 go down to Yavapai County Law Library down there and for  
14 whatever I need. There's also the Supreme Court Law Library  
15 down in -- in -- in Phoenix, Arizona.

16 THE COURT: Okay. Have you ever been involved in  
17 jury selection before?

18 THE DEFENDANT: You know, I haven't. I've never done  
19 that before.

20 THE COURT: Okay. That again is one of the dangers  
21 or disadvantages of representing yourself. Do you recognize  
22 that?

23 THE DEFENDANT: There's always a time to get wet,  
24 your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Okay. Now, have you ever made an opening

1 statement in a criminal proceeding before in federal court?

2 THE DEFENDANT: I've prepared many. I've never done  
3 it.

4 THE COURT: Okay. You understand there is some  
5 guidelines and some laws --

6 THE DEFENDANT: I do.

7 THE COURT: -- that will apply there, and it would  
8 limit the things that you can say.

9 THE DEFENDANT: Sure.

10 THE COURT: If you violate those, of course, the  
11 Court will have to rein you in, and that would not be pleasant  
12 in front of the jury.

13 THE DEFENDANT: Marcus (phonetic) or Greensberry  
14 (phonetic) rules, I'm ready to perform.

15 THE COURT: Okay. Now, let's see. The Rules of  
16 Evidence will govern what evidence can come in. I assume that  
17 having studied those that you'll have some experience in that  
18 regard.

19 But, again, the Court cannot assist you and will not be  
20 able to give you a hand to admit any evidence. You'll have to  
21 do that on your own.

22 You'll face objections from time to time from the  
23 Government's counsel, perhaps, in how something's presented or  
24 whether or not it's even appropriate to be brought before the  
25 Court in that particular proceeding.



1           Do you understand that an attorney more seasoned in  
2           the criminal practice might be a real advantage to you  
3           here?

4           THE DEFENDANT: Actually, I find him to be a distinct  
5           disadvantage in the likes of the performance of  
6           Michael Kimbrell standing next to me over the last four months,  
7           so I'll think I'll go on my own.

8           Thank you.

9           THE COURT: Okay.

10          MR. KIMBRELL: I object to that, your Honor.

11          THE COURT: Okay.

12          MR. KIMBRELL: I'm just kidding.

13          THE COURT: That's --

14          MR. KIMBRELL: I've hardly had any words with him  
15          since our initial appearance, so I don't know what basis he's  
16          using.

17          THE COURT: That's fine.

18          Mr. Rice, one of the things that happens in the court is  
19          there are pretrial motions allowed. There are also motions  
20          that will occur during the course of the trial before the jury.  
21          Are you prepared to shoulder the responsibility of filing  
22          appropriate motions in this court?

23          THE DEFENDANT: Well, since I already started that  
24          process, and the Court already struck those pleadings, I think  
25          I've already demonstrated that I can have the ability to do

1       that.

2               THE COURT:   Okay.   Well, you'll have to abide by  
3       again all of the rules, and that's part of what tripped you up  
4       at this point.

5               In fact, I was the judge who was striking all of those  
6       pleadings because we have a local rule that says once there's  
7       an attorney appointed to represent you everything must come  
8       through that attorney.

9               A defendant does not have the right independently to file  
10       something with the court, so that's why I talk about rules and  
11       the importance of following them.

12              You'll find that they're very carefully followed in the  
13       federal court, and so you must be aware and abide by all of  
14       them, but I think we're going to get past that point now, and  
15       we'll discuss how that motion practice will proceed in the  
16       case.

17              Now, you also assuming there might be a conviction will  
18       have some rights to an appeal.   Have you ever handled an appeal  
19       from a federal district court to the Circuit Court of Appeals?

20              THE DEFENDANT:   I have not.   I've written some, but  
21       I've never handled them myself, no.

22              THE COURT:   Okay.   Again, this is another  
23       disadvantage that you'll suffer because, of course, the  
24       Government is seasoned in that regard and, in fact, has argued  
25       numerous appeals at the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals as well

1 as filing briefs.

2 Now, are you willing to go forward knowing that  
3 disadvantage that you'll have?

4 THE DEFENDANT: I think when the time comes I'll be  
5 able to cover the finer points of U.S. versus Steinberg in this  
6 case, your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Okay. Is there any question in your mind  
8 that you just can't represent yourself here? That you ought to  
9 have some help doing this?

10 THE DEFENDANT: No. I think I'll be happy to be on  
11 my own.

12 Thank you.

13 THE COURT: Okay. Let me just indicate, Mr. Rice,  
14 for the record that, you know, in light of what I'm hearing  
15 from you today it sounds like you're competent and able to  
16 represent yourself. Personally, I would never do that, and I  
17 never recommend it to a defendant.

18 And I give you the same advice that I would give most and  
19 all defendants who appear before me that it's always better to  
20 have an independent set of eyes, an experienced person who's  
21 handled federal cases of this nature in this courtroom.

22 You obviously want to represent yourself here, but I just  
23 counsel you that it's unwise. It's not the best way --

24 THE DEFENDANT: Well, let me state for the record --

25 THE COURT: -- to go.

1 THE DEFENDANT: -- on that issue, then. I'm here  
2 because a government agent is somebody I didn't -- I ended up  
3 having not to trust in the first place. Okay?

4 THE COURT: Yes.

5 THE DEFENDANT: I don't trust any of you people as  
6 far as I can throw your. Okay? All right.

7 THE COURT: Okay.

8 THE DEFENDANT: Rules or not, your Honor, I did file.  
9 I did demonstrate. I did perform. I performed on to a T on  
10 all of the rules and regs as far as the -- the, you know, the  
11 OR bond.

12 And, in fact, I did even report on the 16th by the way  
13 in -- in deference to what's written in the documents in  
14 here.

15 The only time I stopped reporting was the 23rd, and I told  
16 you folks ten days prior what was going to happen. Defer it  
17 to, of course, you know, your -- your -- your statement earlier  
18 about the procedures, but --

19 THE COURT: Okay.

20 THE DEFENDANT: Because I don't trust anybody here, I  
21 would much prefer to die on my own if I'm going to do that.

22 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Well, hopefully, that  
23 won't be the result.

24 THE DEFENDANT: Well, that's the chances you take.

25 THE COURT: Okay. Is anyone forcing you to make this

1 decision?

2 THE DEFENDANT: No.

3 THE COURT: Anyone threatened you or --

4 THE DEFENDANT: No.

5 THE COURT: -- in any way caused you to do this?

6 Anyone promise you anything if you'll represent yourself and  
7 not take an attorney appointed --

8 THE DEFENDANT: No.

9 THE COURT: -- by the Court?

10 THE DEFENDANT: No.

11 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Rice, what I'm going to do,  
12 then, is enter on the record an order that grants you the right  
13 here to represent yourself.

14 The Court makes the finding that you're voluntarily and  
15 intelligently making this decision, and that it's voluntarily  
16 given of your own free will.

17 I would note for the record that the Ninth Circuit  
18 Court of Appeals has cautioned that a Court must take great  
19 care in making this decision and has to indulge every  
20 reasonable presumption against waiver, but I find all of those  
21 overcome today, and I grant you the right to represent yourself  
22 in these proceedings.

23 THE DEFENDANT: And I'll further state for the record  
24 that I'm very familiar with Brady versus U.S. and the waiver of  
25 that issue.

1 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. Well, Brady will have  
2 to -- that's a different issue that goes to some of the  
3 evidence.

4 THE DEFENDANT: The same principle, though.

5 THE COURT: Let me ask this. The trial date is set  
6 for October 5, 2009. I did want to ask one other thing in  
7 regard to attorneys.

8 Occasionally, I've considered and have actually appointed  
9 standby counsel, an attorney who's experienced here to assist  
10 or to be available if someone who's representing themselves  
11 needs that assist or extra hands and extra familiarity with the  
12 Court.

13 Do you want the help of somebody as standby counsel?

14 THE DEFENDANT: If he will state on the record that I  
15 am not a ward of the court, I'm not deemed to be a person of  
16 unsound mind, I will take Michael or somebody else as standby  
17 counsel, so that I can call and ask questions.

18 But that's -- that's where it stops right there. I do not  
19 want him in front of me. I do not want another attorney in  
20 front of me and getting in my way.

21 THE COURT: Okay. Would you be comfortable with  
22 Mr. Kimbrell or would you prefer someone else?

23 THE DEFENDANT: Give me five minutes with Michael,  
24 and I'll tell you.

25 THE COURT: Okay. Why don't we take a brief recess,

1 and then we'll come back and deal with that issue because I  
2 want you to have every opportunity to have the assistance of  
3 counsel at every turn in this case. And even though you might  
4 represent yourself, it can be helpful to have somebody there at  
5 your shoulder to assist.

6 And then I've got a couple of other procedural issues that  
7 we need to address. We'll just take a brief recess. If the  
8 marshal could just let them visit.

9 THE CLERK: All rise.

10 (Recess at 11:47:29 a.m.)

11 (Court reconvened at 12:05:16 p.m.)

12 THE COURT: Please be seated.

13 (Colloquy not on the record.)

14 THE CLERK: This is the continuation of the  
15 United States of America versus Shawn Rice,  
16 2:09-Criminal-78-JCM-RJJ.

17 THE COURT: Thank you.

18 We took a break, Mr. Rice, so you could visit and decide  
19 whether you want standby counsel in this case. What is your  
20 decision?

21 THE DEFENDANT: A standby is fine. Michael is  
22 fine --

23 THE COURT: Okay.

24 THE DEFENDANT: -- so long as the Court agrees that  
25 I'm not a person of unsound mind, and I'm not a ward of the

1 court.

2 THE COURT: No. Definitely not. In fact, the  
3 finding here has been quite the opposite today based upon your  
4 representations and your education and experience.

5 THE DEFENDANT: Thank you.

6 THE COURT: So it will be the order of the Court,  
7 then, that Mr. Kimbrell is appointed as standby counsel.

8 You'll be available, Mr. Kimbrell, to advise him on any  
9 issues of procedure and to assist in any way that he might need  
10 help in this regard, and you're authorized to continue to  
11 submit vouchers in that regard as appointed counsel.

12 MR. KIMBRELL: Yes, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Okay.

14 THE DEFENDANT: In that case, your Honor, I  
15 immediately for release on the OR on the original terms and  
16 conditions as I did perform on those terms and conditions.

17 THE COURT: Actually, we'll get to that --

18 THE DEFENDANT: Thank you.

19 THE COURT: -- in just a minute if we could.

20 THE DEFENDANT: I just wanted to get it out.

21 THE COURT: That's okay. I've got that on my list.

22 The next thing I'd like to address, the trial date was  
23 recently moved by Judge Mahan and is set for October 5, 2009,  
24 and the case has been designated complex.

25 Where do things stand in regard to discovery at this time?



1 Mr. Johnson, what's been provided to the Defense?

2 MR. JOHNSON: Pretty much all of the discovery has  
3 been made available to the Defense in this case. The copies of  
4 all the recordings with the exception of certain recordings  
5 which are -- we have available to counsel in our office to  
6 view.

7 We're making a set which doesn't include the undercover  
8 agent's picture on it, but the recordings are available to be  
9 viewed in the office.

10 THE COURT: Okay. How many pages of documents have  
11 been provided?

12 MR. JOHNSON: I'll be honest. I don't know how many.  
13 Do you have any sense?

14 (Colloquy not on the record.)

15 MR. JOHNSON: 50-, 60,000, somewhere around there.

16 THE COURT: Okay. I just know in a case like this  
17 it's likely to be document-intensive, and so there could be  
18 quite a bit.

19 MR. JOHNSON: There are a lot of documents, although  
20 most of the documents come from the search materials that were  
21 obtained during the execution of search warrants in the case.  
22 In terms of the focus of this case, it's a large number of  
23 audio recordings involving the defendant.

24 THE COURT: Tell me about the recordings. How many  
25 of them are there? Would you measure them by conversations, by

1 time? Can you give me some idea of what's involved.

2 (Colloquy not on the record.)

3 MR. JOHNSON: Probably, at least 50 involving the  
4 defendant and his codefendant. They're not short. I think we  
5 figured some of them are fairly lengthy.

6 (Colloquy not on the record.)

7 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah. So you're probably talking over  
8 100 to 200 hours of recordings. There were other cases that  
9 were developed during the course of the investigation.

10 We have provided all of those recordings and made all of  
11 those recordings available to Defense counsel to the degree  
12 that anyone feels that it's relevant to look at those, and  
13 that's probably another 30 recordings and another 100 hours of  
14 recordings, 100-plus hours of recordings.

15 THE COURT: Have any of the recordings been  
16 transcribed?

17 MR. JOHNSON: We're at the moment in the process of  
18 transcribing those recordings we intend to use at trial, but  
19 there hasn't been an effort made to transcribe all of the  
20 recordings or all the recordings in full. We're only looking  
21 at transcribing those portions of the recordings that we'd be  
22 interested in using at trial.

23 THE COURT: Now, you indicate those have been made  
24 available and accessible to the Defense. Have copies been  
25 provided to the Defense?

1 MR. JOHNSON: Copies of what, your Honor?

2 THE COURT: The recordings, the 100 to 200 hours that  
3 include this particular defendant --

4 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, your --

5 THE COURT: -- Mr. Rice, and then, also, the 30 or  
6 more conversations, the other 100 hours, that are related  
7 items.

8 MR. JOHNSON: Copies have been made of the vast  
9 majority of the recordings. And as I said, there's  
10 approximately 20, 25 video recordings that are currently  
11 available to be viewed in our office.

12 As I said, we're preparing copies of that at which will  
13 blur out the undercover agent's face, so that those aren't mass  
14 produced on the Internet, but we've made those recordings  
15 available to be viewed in the office.

16 THE COURT: Okay. Will the Defense be getting copies  
17 of those with the blurred --

18 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, your Honor.

19 THE COURT: -- faces?

20 MR. JOHNSON: As soon as those come in, we will pass  
21 those on.

22 THE COURT: Okay. How soon is that likely to happen?

23 (Colloquy not on the record.)

24 MR. JOHNSON: It should be done I would say,  
25 hopefully, by the end of August.

1 (Colloquy not on the record.)

2 MR. JOHNSON: Written summaries of almost all of  
3 those recordings have been provided as part of the  
4 documentation.

5 (Colloquy not on the record.)

6 THE COURT: How were the summaries created?

7 (Colloquy not on the record.)

8 MR. JOHNSON: Agents reviewing the recordings.

9 THE COURT: Okay. They listened to them, and then  
10 was 302s created or separate as --

11 (Colloquy not on the record.)

12 MR. JOHNSON: 302s were created.

13 THE COURT: Okay. And all of those have been made  
14 available to the Defense?

15 MR. JOHNSON: Yes.

16 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Kimbrell, do you have all of  
17 these items, then, that have been reviewed here and referenced?

18 MR. KIMBRELL: Yes. I'm not certain that I noted the  
19 20 to 20 -- there is some hours of audio that you referenced  
20 were parts of other cases.

21 THE COURT: That --

22 MR. KIMBRELL: Were those --

23 THE COURT: That was 30 --

24 MR. KIMBRELL: -- part of the 91 --

25 THE COURT: -- 30 conversations, 100-plus hours of

1 related items.

2 MR. KIMBRELL: I probably just haven't gotten to  
3 those, but are those noted --

4 MR. JOHNSON: They probably are noted.

5 MR. KIMBRELL: -- (indiscernible)?

6 MR. JOHNSON: I mean, for instance, there were two  
7 other indictments. One was involving a Harold Call (phonetic)  
8 and one involving a Jan Lindsey (phonetic).

9 There were recordings that were made in reference to each  
10 of those indictments. We just provided the whole set, so that  
11 we aren't getting any issue as to who's --

12 MR. KIMBRELL: Okay.

13 MR. JOHNSON: -- you know, what's relevant --

14 THE COURT: Sure.

15 MR. JOHNSON: -- or not relevant.

16 THE COURT: Yeah. All right. So the defendant can  
17 make those decisions himself.

18 MR. JOHNSON: Right.

19 THE COURT: All right. The videos, now, they're not  
20 available until August 31st. Are those accessible any other  
21 way to the defendant?

22 MR. JOHNSON: As I said, we've indicated that those  
23 are available. We can set up for someone to view them in our  
24 office.

25 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Rice, is that something you

1 might like to do? I know you live out of state. If you're  
2 released, would you be willing to come back and view those?

3 I'm a little concerned about the time line here, the trial  
4 date of October 5. And if that 20 to 25 videos are not  
5 available for viewing, you know, to you actually have copies  
6 in --

7 THE DEFENDANT: There's no way I'm going to be able  
8 to review all that stuff in one month. I mean, October 5th is  
9 unreasonable and impractical. I think we can do it. We can  
10 look at October 5th as a day. We can revise when the trial  
11 date could be reset.

12 But if -- if they can't get it to me until the end of  
13 August, I can't go to their office 'til the end of August and  
14 review those things, then I think it's impractical. It's  
15 almost -- 100 hours, I mean, you know, you're talking about  
16 just geography, and time is a problem here.

17 THE COURT: What is the approximate length of the  
18 videos? Do you have an estimate of the time involved in those?

19 (Colloquy not on the record.)

20 MR. JOHNSON: 15 minutes to four hours, your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Okay. Times 20 to 25, yeah.

22 THE DEFENDANT: There you go right there.

23 THE COURT: That's a substantial --

24 THE DEFENDANT: And it may -- it may come down, and  
25 -- and I don't know until I see it, but it may come down to an

1 issue based upon my intended procedure or proceeding on this  
2 case. A lot of that may come down to motions in limine or  
3 stipulations on certain issues --

4 THE COURT: Right.

5 THE DEFENDANT: -- because I think this entire case  
6 is going to come down to one issue, anyway, so, you know, I --  
7 again, I don't -- I won't know until I see what they have.

8 THE COURT: Okay. Well, you will have access before  
9 that date to written summaries that have already been  
10 provided.

11 And then, also, if you wanted to go to the U.S. Attorney's  
12 Office they could set up a viewing for you there, and you could  
13 take a couple of days and view any parts that you felt were  
14 really significant.

15 All of this leads, then, to a question, and, Mr. Rice, I  
16 pose this primarily to you. We need to set some date for  
17 motion practice to occur here.

18 I mean, you've already indicated you've filed several.  
19 I've stricken all of those, and what I'd really like to do is  
20 just clear the deck and start fresh.

21 Do you have access and an account for filing things  
22 electronically with the court?

23 THE DEFENDANT: I don't at this time, but I can get a  
24 PACER account and establish it and set it up and do that.

25 THE COURT: Okay. I would encourage you to go ahead

1 and do that. You're not a licensed attorney here. There will  
2 be some things that you need to go through, but I think you can  
3 handle the process, and the clerk's office can help set that  
4 up.

5 Mr. Johnson.

6 MR. JOHNSON: You're going to need to issue an order  
7 for him as a pro se to do that, your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Right. I'm aware of that, and we'll do  
9 that separately, so that you are allowed access and can get a  
10 code.

11 They may also want you to go through a little bit of  
12 training in the clerk's office, so that you know how to use the  
13 CM/ECF system and have that access.

14 If there are motions that have already been filed that  
15 you'd like filed, you can go ahead and do that, but what I  
16 would just ask you to do is just file the motion again, and  
17 we'll deal with it fresh, rather than something that I've  
18 stricken and trying to revive it as part of the record.

19 The Court normally sets a reasonable period of time for  
20 motion practice. In a complex case like this, I want to make  
21 sure there's enough time.

22 Do you have any feeling today in conversations with  
23 Mr. Kimbrell and your own assessment of the case as to how much  
24 time you might need to file motions in this case?

25 THE DEFENDANT: I'm going to at least -- I'm going to



1 need at least two weeks to go home and -- and reorganize and  
2 see where I am and everything I filed in the past and review it  
3 before I can even answer that question.

4 THE COURT: All right. Let me ask this, then. Would  
5 you want to talk with Mr. Johnson from the U.S. Attorney's  
6 Office and enter some stipulation to the Court as to an  
7 appropriate schedule for motion practice?

8 THE DEFENDANT: I think we could start with 30 days.  
9 I don't see a problem with that.

10 THE COURT: Okay. I'm more interested in when the  
11 deadline would be --

12 THE DEFENDANT: Oh, well --

13 THE COURT: -- to have motions filed.

14 (Colloquy not on the record.)

15 THE DEFENDANT: Yeah. I -- again, I haven't --

16 THE COURT: You --

17 THE DEFENDANT: H'mm, I couldn't give an answer  
18 today.

19 THE COURT: You have a lot of materials to digest  
20 here.

21 THE DEFENDANT: Sure.

22 THE COURT: And you've already identified some  
23 issues, obviously, just generally in regard to the  
24 charges.

25 But when you start looking at the evidence and the

1 discovery, that may promote some other questions and issues  
2 that you'll want --

3 THE DEFENDANT: Of course.

4 THE COURT: -- to address.

5 Mr. Johnson, any thoughts on this?

6 MR. JOHNSON: I have no real issue in terms of any  
7 motions we intend to file, and so the issue is really up to the  
8 defendant and how long he realistically needs. He probably  
9 should discuss with Mr. Davis' attorney.

10 (Colloquy not on the record.)

11 MR. JOHNSON: I mean, we would be open now to  
12 revising both a motion date and the trial date in this case if  
13 we could get a stipulation by both defendants --

14 THE COURT: Okay.

15 MR. JOHNSON: -- to do that. Is there --

16 (Colloquy not on the record.)

17 THE COURT: Is there a motion date as to Mr. Davis?  
18 I had the impression there wasn't, but I may have missed  
19 something in the docket somewhere. I --

20 (Colloquy not on the record.)

21 THE COURT: I know there's definitely not as to  
22 Mr. Rice.

23 MR. JOHNSON: Right.

24 THE COURT: And I know when Judge Mahan extended the  
25 trial date in his last order there was no motion practice

1       allowed in that schedule, and I'm sure he intended it to just  
2       fall to me to take care of that here with the attorneys.

3               MR. JOHNSON: I don't see anywhere where I've written  
4       down any motion date on that. So at this point, I would say  
5       there was probably nothing set.

6               THE COURT: Let's do this, then. Let me enter an  
7       order that will require the parties to submit a proposal to the  
8       Court for motion practice, and we're sitting today on nearly  
9       the end of July.

10              If I could have that by August 12th, that gives you a  
11       couple of weeks, Mr. Rice, to review these basic materials.  
12       And from that, you'll begin to get a feel.

13              I know you've already got several issues that you do want  
14       to raise and file with the court, and you can file those at any  
15       time. But by that date, I'd like some indication from the  
16       Government and from the Defense.

17              And we'll extend this to include Mr. Davis as a  
18       codefendant and make sure that his counsel is advised through  
19       our electronic noticing that the Court expects something by  
20       August 12th in regard to an appropriate schedule for motion  
21       practice.

22              Do you have any questions about what I'm expecting,  
23       Mr. Johnson or Mr. Rice?

24              MR. JOHNSON: I'm not exactly sure what you're  
25       expecting from me in the -- as I said, I'm more or less open to

1 this.

2 I would assume Mr. Rice will talk with Mr. Leventhal. And  
3 pretty much whatever is reasonable to them, I probably will be  
4 glad --

5 THE COURT: Okay. I guess --

6 MR. JOHNSON: -- to go along with.

7 THE COURT: I guess your involvement would be if the  
8 parties could reach some stipulation and tender that to the  
9 Court by that date.

10 Otherwise, I would just entertain a filing by the Defense  
11 that says here's what we feel like we need in this complex case  
12 in order to accomplish motions.

13 Also, I would want to get some response from the  
14 Government as to the response time that you might  
15 need.

16 MR. JOHNSON: What I would ask, your Honor, since is  
17 that the order is that either the parties file a stipulation by  
18 August 12th or that each party is required to file a  
19 recommendation as to a schedule.

20 THE COURT: Okay. That would be fine. Let's make  
21 that the order of the Court, then. We'll expect either a  
22 stipulated proposed schedule or individual, each individual  
23 party, the two defendants and the Government, to submit  
24 something to the Court, so that then I can craft something that  
25 will work.

1           And if it looks like because of the complex nature of the  
2           case more time's going to required for motion practice, then  
3           we'll reasonably fit into the schedule of the trial date of  
4           October 5th. I would encourage you to go ahead and address  
5           that issue as well and make that a comprehensive stipulation --

6           THE DEFENDANT: Thank you, your Honor.

7           THE COURT: -- or a proposal. Okay? Very good,  
8           then.

9           Now, the other procedural question that I had today that  
10          we needed to address was just the release or continued  
11          detention of Mr. Rice.

12          (Colloquy not on the record.)

13          THE COURT: No petition was ever filed in regard to a  
14          violation of the previous release that was imposed at the  
15          initial appearance.

16          Has there been full compliance with the requirements to  
17          Pretrial?

18          PRETRIAL SERVICES: Judge, it just wasn't listed in  
19          the -- one second, your Honor.

20          THE COURT: Certainly.

21          PRETRIAL SERVICES: I think I did see something.  
22          Just what's listed in the report that on June 22nd that he  
23          failed to appear.

24          There is nothing else that's significant from the  
25          District of Arizona, Judge. Like I said, what's listed in the

1 report is all that I have.

2 THE COURT: So at one point, there was a failure to  
3 appear to a Pretrial Service officer as --

4 PRETRIAL SERVICES: He was directed on June 16th,  
5 2009.

6 (Colloquy not on the record.)

7 THE DEFENDANT: Um-h'm.

8 PRETRIAL SERVICES: And he failed to report to the  
9 office on June 23rd (indiscernible), and that's in the second  
10 paragraph on page 1.

11 THE COURT: Okay. But there's been no petition filed  
12 in regard to that.

13 PRETRIAL SERVICES: No, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Is that correct?

15 PRETRIAL SERVICES: That's correct.

16 THE COURT: Mr. Rice, was there anything you wanted  
17 to say on this?

18 THE DEFENDANT: As I said earlier, your Honor, first  
19 off, I was not in Nevada on June 22nd. I had an agent, a  
20 paralegal, file the document in question. I had -- until I was  
21 brought here, I had not set foot back in Nevada since the day I  
22 was released. That's first.

23 Second off, I did report on June 16th, 2009, and I told  
24 the Court prior to that that because of what the Court was  
25 doing and our miscommunication, however you want to couch that,

1 I was no longer going to report to this Court until that issue  
2 was resolved. Okay?

3 So on -- technically, on June 23rd, yeah, I -- I failed to  
4 report on June 23rd. But because the Pretrial Services works  
5 for you and because you and I had the miscommunication, I  
6 wasn't going to any more trial as far as I was concerned.

7 And if you characters wanted to proceed without me, that  
8 was fine since you weren't including me in this process,  
9 anyway, miscommunication notwithstanding. So as far as --

10 THE COURT: Okay.

11 THE DEFENDANT: -- my performance on  
12 Pretrial Services, I did perform completely up until June 23rd.

13 (Colloquy not on the record.)

14 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Johnson, any position by  
15 the -- oh, I'm sorry.

16 Something further by Pretrial Services, Mr. Wheaton?

17 PRETRIAL SERVICES: Oh, yes, your Honor. Hearing his  
18 statement, it seemed like he's totally missed the whole concept  
19 of Pretrial Services whether -- that he must comply even if he  
20 has to make phone conversations at that time.

21 And if he's unwilling to even contact the officer just by  
22 making weekly phone contacts, I don't see how he could be  
23 supervised under Pretrial Services.

24 THE COURT: Okay.

25 THE DEFENDANT: And the fact of the matter is,

1 your Honor, I did make weekly telephone phone calls up until  
2 June, June 16th.

3 And -- and, again, I'll restate again for the record on  
4 June 23rd was when I stopped, and it was for the reasons we  
5 already talked about yesterday and today.

6 THE COURT: Right. And, ultimately, that's why you  
7 were arrested and brought back in custody, and we'll try to  
8 avoid that if you're released again.

9 Mr. Johnson, any thoughts by the Government in regard to  
10 release or detention?

11 MR. JOHNSON: Oh, essentially, the same concerns of  
12 Mr. Wheaton is whether the defendant will comply and follow  
13 Pretrial Services supervision.

14 I think at a -- you know, you have to at a minimum have  
15 some agreement by the defendant that he understands that he's  
16 involved in a court process. That he doesn't decide when he's  
17 not going to comply or when he's going to terminate it.

18 And that there's a clear understanding that he does have  
19 an obligation absent the Court changing it rather than him  
20 deciding not to comply and to terminate it to meet all the  
21 conditions that Pretrial Services may impose in terms of what  
22 they need to do to supervise him, and I'm not sure we've  
23 reached that point, yet.

24 Looking at the filings that have been filed to date, the  
25 main concerns that I have is, you know, while the defendant now



1 is representing himself he still has an obligation to comply  
2 with all the rules and procedures of the court just like any  
3 other attorney and is still being bound by the criminal  
4 judicial process just like any other defendant.

5 And based upon the filings and the defendant's conduct,  
6 I'm not sure that he feels that he is bound by this Court's  
7 order and this Court's jurisdiction and authority. And so for  
8 those reasons, we're reluctant to suggest that he should be  
9 released at this time.

10 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

11 Mr. Rice, do you want to speak to this issue?

12 THE DEFENDANT: I -- I think I've already addressed  
13 Eric's issues in the past. You know, I -- I -- I told the  
14 Court I would -- in fact, Michael said it for me in the record  
15 in the arraignment that I would be aggressively litigating this  
16 case.

17 I did start aggressively litigating this case. You deemed  
18 fit to strike those pleadings for the reasons we've already  
19 discussed, and I complied completely up until the 23rd.  
20 Notwithstanding that I tried by Eric, you know, I --

21 THE COURT: Why don't you use --

22 THE DEFENDANT: I --

23 THE COURT: -- Mr. Johnson.

24 THE DEFENDANT: Mr. Johnson.

25 THE COURT: That's the better way --

1 THE DEFENDANT: Thank you.

2 THE COURT: -- to practice here.

3 THE DEFENDANT: I -- I intend to attack, and so  
4 legally speaking. I -- I have no intention of backing away  
5 from this case.

6 THE COURT: Okay. If I release you, is there going  
7 to be any problem of you staying in touch with  
8 Pretrial Services and following their directions?

9 THE DEFENDANT: I'm going to start hounding people is  
10 what I'm going to start doing. I'm going to be --

11 (Colloquy not on the record.)

12 THE COURT: I --

13 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

14 THE COURT: I'm sorry. You're --

15 THE DEFENDANT: And when I say hounding, I'm going to  
16 be very aggressive. I'm not only working with the Court, but  
17 getting all the discovery from Mr. Johnson and in going -- in  
18 going at this tooth and nail, yes.

19 THE COURT: Okay. So if Pretrial Services requires  
20 you to call or to visit their office, you're willing to do  
21 that?

22 THE DEFENDANT: And, again, I did. I mean, up until  
23 the 23rd, Doris (phonetic) came out to my house. She knows  
24 where I -- my house is. She knows where I work. She's seen my  
25 -- my home, you know. That -- that was never an issue.

1 THE COURT: Okay.

2 THE DEFENDANT: And as far as the jurisdictional  
3 issue, you know, I think I've more than submitted to this  
4 Court's jurisdiction at this point in time. And as I said  
5 before, look, if I wanted to run, you guys would never find me.  
6 Okay? So I've been --

7 THE COURT: Yes.

8 THE DEFENDANT: I made that very clear. I've  
9 addressed this issue on numerous occasions on numerous  
10 documents. You picked me up at synagogue. Okay?

11 I mean, the phone call I got the day before was clearly  
12 from people that wanted to bring guns and which they did, and I  
13 was, of course, unarmed at synagogue.

14 And I clearly understood that they were about to pick me  
15 up that day, and there was much miscommunication with the  
16 clerk's office as to what the warrant was actually for, me or  
17 the penal sum, arguments, arguendo not -- you know,  
18 notwithstanding.

19 So as far as me performing with Pretrial Services as far  
20 as I'm concerned, Mr. Johnson's comments notwithstanding, I  
21 performed.

22 THE COURT: Okay. What the Court will do, then, I'm  
23 going to release you at this time on the conditions previously  
24 set by the Court that are incorporated in Document No. 17, and  
25 you'll be free, then, to travel between the states of Arizona

1 and Nevada.

2 Now, remember, there is a restriction on travel. And if  
3 you want to go to other areas, you'll need the permission of  
4 Pretrial Services; otherwise, it's a violation.

5 THE DEFENDANT: And --

6 THE COURT: Also --

7 THE DEFENDANT: And just -- I'm sorry, your Honor.

8 THE COURT: -- let --

9 THE DEFENDANT: I don't mean to interrupt, but just  
10 one last thing here, and I -- and I did --

11 THE COURT: Yes.

12 THE DEFENDANT: I did work with Doris on that issue.  
13 I did travel to New York. I did travel to Washington, D.C. if  
14 I recall, and I do --

15 (Colloquy not on the record.)

16 THE DEFENDANT: I do -- I am going to have to go back  
17 to the East Coast to the Bureau of the Public Debt in  
18 Fredericksburg, West Virginia. I'm probably going to have to  
19 go to Chicago to the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

20 I'm probably going to go -- and I've already been tasked  
21 to go to the Provost Marshal in San Diego at some point in time  
22 to give them a briefing on certain issues that are happening in  
23 judiciary court system. There are numerous places.

24 And I -- I -- and, again, I will work with Doris on that  
25 communication. I just ask that you not hamstring me on those

1       communications, and so --

2               THE COURT: No. That's not the intent, and it's just  
3       there's a principle of supervision here --

4               THE DEFENDANT: Of course.

5               THE COURT: -- under the Bail Reform Act, and travel  
6       outside of Arizona and Nevada just needs previous approval by  
7       the Pretrial Service agency.

8               Also, remember, that you're not to violate any federal,  
9       state, or local laws. The other conditions -- do you have a  
10      copy of those conditions that were imposed in Document No. 17?

11              THE DEFENDANT: I think I'm going to have to get  
12      another copy because so much has happened in the last six  
13      weeks, you know.

14              THE COURT: I'll give you a copy.

15              THE DEFENDANT: Thank you.

16              THE COURT: All right? If the clerk will just pass  
17      this to you. That's a copy that I printed off this morning of  
18      No. 17. That has where you had signed off and agreed to those  
19      conditions --

20              THE DEFENDANT: Right.

21              THE COURT: -- with Pretrial Services.

22              Remember, you're not to violate any federal, state, or  
23      local law while on the conditions. That means even a simple  
24      speeding ticket would be a violation of your release  
25      conditions, and you could be brought back to court.

1           If you violate any of those conditions, you can be brought  
2 back, your release could be revoked, and then you could be  
3 ordered held in jail until the case is finished. You could  
4 also be prosecuted for a contempt of court for violating this  
5 Court's order.

6           If you commit a federal crime while on these release  
7 conditions, extra penalties could be imposed at the time of  
8 your sentencing.

9           Now, if you fail to appear at any time when you should be  
10 in court, of course, a warrant would issue for your immediate  
11 arrest which is really effectively what happened in this  
12 circumstance.

13           Also, the Government at any time that you fail to appear  
14 could bring another charge against you which is a felony  
15 failure to appear.

16           That would mean that if the charges in this case were  
17 dismissed for some reason or all disappeared based on your  
18 motions or others you could still be prosecuted and if  
19 convicted serve time in prison for the failure to appear.

20           Do you understand?

21           THE DEFENDANT: I do. And on that basis, your Honor,  
22 at your leisure, I'd like to address some issues with you in  
23 chambers ex parte in camera regarding certain military issues  
24 that are still pending on this case.

25           THE COURT: Yeah. I don't do in camera hearings with

1 defendants. If there's something you'd like to file, it can be  
2 filed --

3 THE DEFENDANT: I can't put it --

4 THE COURT: -- and in a --

5 THE DEFENDANT: -- on the record. I --

6 THE COURT: It can be filed in a sealed document  
7 which no one has access to except you or the judge, but I leave  
8 that to you.

9 (Laughter in the courtroom at 12:32:32 p.m.)

10 THE COURT: Mr. Kimbrell can also advise you in  
11 regard to that, but we do have a way to seal those things, so  
12 that no one has access to them, but I understand, and I've  
13 seen, you know, some information from your military record and  
14 know of your clearances.

15 THE DEFENDANT: I will tell you right now I'm stuck  
16 on that issue. So if --

17 THE COURT: Okay.

18 THE DEFENDANT: If you get a phone call from somebody  
19 in the military and says I'm now in their custody for whatever  
20 reason, okay, I'm just --

21 THE COURT: Right.

22 THE DEFENDANT: I'm -- and for the record, I'm giving  
23 you fair warning. I'm not running. Okay? But if somebody on  
24 the East Coast says, no, you're out of here, you're going to  
25 work for us --

1 THE COURT: Yes.

2 THE DEFENDANT: -- for whatever reason, okay, you  
3 know. I'm telling you now. Okay?

4 THE COURT: Right.

5 THE DEFENDANT: Does that make sense?

6 THE COURT: Just alert Pretrial Services.

7 THE DEFENDANT: I -- I will. I will do my best to  
8 tell them. But if I get picked up by -- and I can't tell you  
9 who. I'm --

10 THE COURT: I understand.

11 THE DEFENDANT: I'm just giving you fair warning if  
12 they come in, you know, with (indiscernible) above these guys  
13 over here, then I got to go work for them. Okay?

14 THE COURT: Okay.

15 THE DEFENDANT: Does that make sense?

16 THE COURT: Yes, it does.

17 THE DEFENDANT: I'm sure they're going to communicate  
18 with you at some point, but, I mean, there's always a lag if  
19 that makes sense. Okay?

20 THE COURT: I do.

21 THE DEFENDANT: All right. Thank you.

22 THE COURT: I understand that.

23 Anything further today that needs to be addressed?

24 Mr. Johnson, anything by the Government?

25 MR. JOHNSON: No, your Honor.



1 Thank you.

2 THE COURT: Mr. Rice, anything by the Defense?

3 THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor.

4 Thank you. All right.

5 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

6 We'll be in recess.

7 (Colloquy not on the record.)

8 THE CLERK: All rise.

9 (Court concluded at 12:33:42 p.m.)

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript  
2 from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in  
3 the above-entitled matter.  
4  
5

6 /s/ Lisa L. Cline

09/25/09

7 Lisa L. Cline, Transcriptionist

Date